



Ontario
Energy
Board | Commission
de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

July 31, 2025

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Other Interested Parties**

Re: Distribution Customer Connections Review (EB-2025-0204)

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is providing stakeholders with information regarding membership of the newly established Distribution Customer Connections Working Group (DCC WG). This letter also addresses matters related to cost award eligibility.

On July 3, 2025, the OEB issued a [letter](#) (the July 3rd letter) launching a comprehensive review of electricity distributor connection processes for load customers in response to stakeholder feedback and the June 12, 2025 [Integrated Energy Plan Directive](#) from the Minister of Energy and Mines.

The July 3rd letter stated that the OEB would establish a technical working group to assist in reviewing current practices for connecting load customers, evaluating the requirements of the Distribution System Code, and identifying opportunities for improvement. The letter also called for expressions of interest from stakeholders interested in serving on the working group. The OEB thanks all stakeholders who responded.

The OEB received expressions of interest from 30 entities reflecting a cross-section of stakeholders including consumer groups, electricity distributors, a gas distributor, non-government organizations, and load customers (including developers). All stakeholders who requested to participate have been accepted for membership. The list of members is set out in Appendix A. OEB staff will be communicating directly with the members regarding the date and proposed agenda for the first meeting of the DCC WG.

As indicated in the July 3rd letter, all working group materials will be posted on the OEB's [consultation page](#) to ensure transparency and provide all stakeholders an opportunity to follow the group's progress. Stakeholders may also submit comments on the materials through the webpage.

Cost Award Eligibility

The OEB has made provision for cost awards to be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, for eligible parties' participation in the consultation. In its July 3rd letter, the OEB stated that parties previously found eligible for an award of costs in a prior related consultation would be eligible for cost awards in the Distribution Customer Connections Review. The following three parties are in this category and have advised that they wish to participate in this proceeding and are approved for an award of costs for their participation:

- Energy Probe Research Foundation;
- Environmental Defence; and
- School Energy Coalition.

Three additional organizations that asked to participate in this consultation also indicated requests for consideration of eligibility for costs:

- Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD);
- Energy Storage Canada (ESC); and
- Canadian Charging Infrastructure Council (CCIC).

All three organizations have been included in the DCC WG. With regard to eligibility for cost awards, based on the material filed by these organizations to date, the OEB has determined that BILD meets the criteria set out in the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) (Practice Direction) and is therefore eligible for cost awards in this consultation:

The OEB is not approving ESC for an award of costs at this time. In an email message to the OEB, ESC's representative advised that it wishes to participate in the working group and that it was "hoping to secure cost recovery to participate". It is not clear to the OEB from ESC's email message that it is requesting a finding from the OEB that it is eligible for a cost award, nor does the email message contain the necessary details as to why a request for cost eligibility should be granted. The OEB will allow ESC to file a more detailed request for cost eligibility that addresses the matters set out in the Practice Direction including, without limitation, the cost eligibility process set out in section 4, and it will consider the updated request at that time.

CCIC indicated in its request to participate that it would file a more detailed submission requesting costs. Therefore, the OEB will not make a decision on a CCIC request for

cost eligibility until a more detailed submission is received. As noted with regard to ESC, CCIC's request should address the matters set out in the Practice Direction including, without limitation, section 4.

As noted in the July 3rd letter, cost awards will be available to eligible DCC WG members for one attendee to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 1.5 times the actual meeting time for preparation and reporting per eligible participant.

Any questions related to this letter should be directed to Ahmet Erdem, Sr. Advisor, Distribution Policy & Compliance at Ahmet.Erdem@oeb.ca. You may also contact the OEB through our toll-free number: 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BH', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachment: Appendix A – Distribution Customer Connections Working Group (DCC WG) Members

Appendix A – Distribution Customer Connections Working Group (DCC WG) Members

- Alectra Utilities Corporation
- Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD)
- Canadian Charging Infrastructure Council (CCIC)
- Chestnut Hill Developments
- DG Group
- Corner Stone Hydro Electric Concepts (CHEC)
- Cortel Group
- Electricity Distributors Association
- Elexicon Energy Inc.
- Enbridge Gas Inc.
- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Energy Storage Canada (ESC)
- Environmental Defence
- ENWIN Utilities Ltd.
- Fieldgate Developments
- GrandBridge Energy
- Great Gulf
- Hydro One Networks Inc.
- Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.
- London Hydro Inc.
- Lormel Homes
- Mattamy Homes Canada
- Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.
- Ontario Energy Association
- Primary Engineering and Construction
- Quinte Manufacturers Association
- RTG Systems Inc.
- School Energy Coalition
- Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited
- Yonge Steeles Landowners Group